

**CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 22, further comprising the step of, prior to the step of providing the host access to a storage device, copying the operating system to the storage device from another device of the storage system.

Claims 3-4 (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 22, wherein the control station queries the Fibre Channel switch in response to a notification received from the host via an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

6. (Original) The method claimed in claim 5, wherein the host connects to the IP network using a DHCP protocol.

Claims 7-10 (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 22, wherein the database uses the lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP).

12. (Amended) A system for automatically configuring a diskless host computer upon being physically connected to a network, comprising:

at least one diskless host computer that automatically boots an operating system as a result of being connected to the network;

a storage system on which are stored a plurality of host configurations, each configuration including an operating system;

a switch coupled to each diskless host computer and having a plurality of ports, each port coupled to the storage system; and

a control station computer configured for:

monitoring for receipt of an identifier transmitted by the diskless host computer to the switch,

accessing a database comprising a correspondence between an identifier of each of a plurality of diskless host computers likely to be used in the system and a configuration associated with the corresponding diskless host computer in order to look looking up a configuration corresponding to the received identifier, said configuration identifying the operating system associated with the diskless host computer, and

directing the switch to provide the diskless host computer access to a storage device on which the operating system identified in the configuration is stored.

13. (Original) The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the storage system copies the operating system to the storage device from another device of the storage system.

14. (Original) The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the identifier is a World Wide Name (WWN) received from the host in accordance with a Fibre Channel log-in protocol, and wherein each WWN corresponds to a configuration.

15. (Original) The system claimed in claim 14, wherein the a control station computer queries the Fibre Channel switch for the WWN and looks up the configuration in a database in response to the WWN.

16. (Currently Amended) The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the ~~control station computer looks up the configuration in a database operating~~ operates under the lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP).

Claims 17-21 (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically booting a diskless host computer upon being connected to a Fibre Channel network, comprising:

physically connecting the diskless host computer to the network;

receiving, at a Fibre Channel switch, a World Wide Name (WWN) from the diskless host computer in accordance with a Fibre Channel log-in protocol;

looking up a configuration corresponding to the received identifier, ~~each configuration including an operating system different from the operating system of all other configurations of the plurality of configurations;~~ wherein looking up a configuration corresponding to the received identifier further comprises:

querying, by a control station computer, the Fibre Channel switch for the WWN received from the diskless host computer; and

looking-up accessing, by the control station computer, a database comprising a correspondence between a WWN of each of a plurality of diskless host computers and a configuration associated with the corresponding diskless host computer in order to look up the configuration corresponding to the obtained in a database in response to the WWN; each WWN having a corresponding configuration, said configuration identifying an operating system associated with the diskless host computer;

providing the diskless host computer access to a storage device on which the operating system identified in the configuration is stored; and

the diskless host computer booting from the operating system stored on the storage device in response to being connected to network.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically booting a diskless computer upon being physically connected to a network, comprising:

physically connecting the diskless host computer to the network;

transmitting, in response to being physically connected to the network, an identifier from the diskless computer;

receiving the identifier by a control station computer;

querying, by the control station computer, a database with the identifier received to determine an operating system associated with the diskless computer, wherein the database associates the identifier with an operating system comprises a correspondence between an identifier of each of a plurality of diskless computers and a configuration associated with the corresponding diskless computer, said configuration identifying an operating system;

determining a storage device on which the identified operating system is stored;

copying the identified operating system from the storage device to the diskless computer over the network; and

booting, as a result of being physically connected to the network, the diskless computer from the identified operating system.

24. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 23, wherein the network comprises an IP network.

25. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 24, wherein the diskless computer connects to the IP network using a DHCP protocol.

26. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 23, wherein the network comprises a Fibre Channel network.

27. (Previously Presented) The method claimed in claim 26, wherein the identifier is unique to an adapter used to connect the diskless computer to the network.